

# WEEKLY REPORT



09/25/21

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## POLITICS

### **BOLSONARO AT UN: BRAZIL WANTS TO ATTRACT MORE PRIVATE INVESTMENT**

While opening the session of debates of the 76th United Nations (UN) General Assembly today (Sep. 22), Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said Brazil is working to attract investment from the private enterprise, adding it has "everything an investor looks for: a large consumer market, excellent assets, a tradition of honoring contracts, and confidence in our government." President Bolsonaro further stated that the country is expanding its railway network and conducting other initiatives as part of its program on investment partnerships, further mentioning that the private contracts signed for new railways have surpassed \$6 billion. He noted that the government also introduced a new legal framework for the sector in August, simplifying the rules for building new railways. "In just a few days, we received 14 requests for authorization, for new railways with nearly \$15 billion in private investment," he said. "As a result, [we get] lower consumption of fossil fuels and a reduction in the Brazil cost, especially as food production becomes cheaper," he went on to say. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL COMMITTED TO PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT, BOLSONARO TELLS U.N., ACTIVISTS UNCONVINCED**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro struck a conciliatory tone on the environment during his speech to the United Nation's General Assembly on Tuesday, bragging that his country's environmental laws are a model for the world and reinforcing a vow to end illegal deforestation. The far-right leader, who has pushed to open more of the Amazon rainforest to mining and agriculture, has been criticized at home and abroad for increased deforestation under his government. But he sought to deflect that criticism on Tuesday, telling the U.N. that his government was taking protection of the Amazon seriously. After years of funding cuts and hiring freezes, Bolsonaro promised to double resources for environmental enforcement to combat illegal deforestation. "No country in the world has a more complete environmental legislation than ours," Bolsonaro said, though he admitted that the size of Brazil made enforcement difficult. [Read more.](#)

### **INDIGENOUS PROTESTORS SEEK NORWEGIAN 'ASYLUM' FOR BRAZILIAN TREE**

Indigenous activists delivered a Jatoba tree to Norway's embassy in Brasilia on Tuesday, seeking "refugee" status for it in a symbolic protest the destruction of Brazil's Amazon rainforest. The protest coincided with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro at the United Nations General Assembly defending what he described as his government's fight against deforestation of the rainforest. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL COMMITTEE PASSES CIVIL SERVICE REFORM BILL THAT TRIMS EMPLOYEE PAYROLL GROWTH**

Legislation aimed at reducing the size of the Brazilian state and trimming the growth of public payrolls cleared the committee stage in the lower chamber of Congress on Thursday in a significant advance for the government's reform agenda. Despite opposition objections, the measure amends the country's constitution to loosen guarantees for public servants,

toughening performance criteria and allowing the contracting of temporary employees for up to 10 years. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL RAISES INTEREST RATES, SIGNALS THIRD BIG HIKE NEXT MONTH**

Brazil's central bank on Wednesday raised interest rates by 100 basis points and flagged a third straight hike of that size in October as it battles surging inflation with the world's most aggressive monetary tightening. The bank's rate-setting committee, known as Copom, decided unanimously to raise its benchmark rate to 6.25% as forecast by most economists in a Reuters poll. The move puts Brazil on the front line of a global battle against climbing consumer prices, lifting its benchmark rate from a record-low 2.00% at the start of the year as 12-month inflation flirts with double digits. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL EXPECTS ENERGY SAVINGS OF 500 MW BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER**

Brazil expects its program for voluntary energy conservation to reach total savings of 500 MW in September, Energy Ministry's secretary said on Wednesday. Christiano Vieira expects the savings to grow on October. The national operator of the power grid is receiving bids from companies to reduce consumption. The energy ministry official also said the measures taken by the government are enough to supply electricity demand, amid Brazil's worst drought in 90 years. Most of the country's energy is supplied by hydroelectric dams. [Read more.](#)

### **SHELL TO INVEST \$565 MILLION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY IN BRAZIL THROUGH 2025**

The Brazilian subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell (RDSa.L) will invest 3 billion reais (\$565 million) in renewable energy in the country through 2025, executives said on Tuesday. Most of the capex is related to solar energy projects, the executives said. The head of renewable development for Latin America, Gabriela Oliveira, said Shell has 2GW of solar energy projects under development and expects to reach 5GW by year-end. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZILIAN INDUSTRY SHOWS HIGH USE OF INSTALLED CAPACITY**

August's Industrial Survey indicates that the use of the industry's installed capacity is still elevated in the country, above what had been registered in previous years, and employment is also on the rise in the sector. The data were made public today (Sep. 23) by the National Industry Confederation, CNI. Conversely, stock levels remained virtually unchanged in the month, and is still below what had been planned by companies. This is the third consecutive month in which the difference between the level of effective stock and what was desired by the companies keeps steady. CNI pointed out, however, that this difference is considerably smaller than in the same month in 2020, when the problem of shortage of supplies and raw materials was becoming more critical. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S 2020 AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT REACHED A RECORD \$89 BI**

Brazil's agricultural production in 2020 reached a record-breaking \$89 billion, 30.4 percent above 2019. A total of 255.4 million tons of cereals, legumes, and oleaginous plants were produced—a harvest five percent larger than the previous year. In the same comparison, the planted area grew 2.7 percent, adding up to 83.4 million hectares. The data were made public on September 22 by the government's statistics agency IBGE. "As the dollar gained in value compared to the real, there was also a growth in the external demand for these products, which made a direct impact on the main commodity prices, which in turn showed a significant increase over the course of the year. As a result, the ten main agricultural goods in 2020 saw a major surge in their production value against the previous year," IBGE stated. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL SETS 5G MOBILE AUCTION FOR NOV 4, EXPECTS TO RAISE \$1.9 BLN**

Brazil's government has scheduled an auction of fifth generation (5G) mobile spectrum for Nov. 4, with expectations that it will raise around 10 billion reais (\$1.87 billion) based on the minimum bids allowed, government officials said on Friday. The winning bidders will be required to invest about 40 billion reais in 5G infrastructure, the government predicts, with the level of

capital expenditures also considered as part of the bid value. Among the obligations for auction winners, they must bring high-speed internet to thousands of schools to building 4G infrastructure along roadways. [Read more.](#)

### **EMBRAER SHARES SOAR WITH ELECTRIC AIRCRAFT ORDERS, ANALYST UPGRADE**

Brazilian planemaker Embraer SA (EMBR3.SA) said on Thursday its subsidiary Eve has signed a memorandum of understanding to sell up to 100 electric aircraft to lessor Bristow Group (VTOL.N), sending Embraer shares higher, in the latest sign of dealmaking in the nascent "flying taxis" sector. Brazil-listed Embraer shares, which were also boosted by an upgrade to "buy" from "neutral" by analysts at Goldman Sachs, jumped 11.75% to 23.80 reais in early trading in Sao Paulo. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL'S GOL HAILS DEAL TO BRING FLYING TAXIS TO SAO PAULO**

A fleet of electric air taxis is set to take off over Sao Paulo by 2025 after a deal between Brazilian airline Gol Linhas Aereas Inteligentes and Irish lessor Avolon to buy or lease 250 of the aircraft. Gol (GOLL4.SA) said on Tuesday that the VA-X4 eVTOL, manufactured by Britain's Vertical Aerospace, would boost its domestic regional offering, and help it reach its 2050 carbon neutrality goal, lifting its shares in Sao Paulo. [Read more.](#)

## **HEALTH**

### **JUSTICE FORCES THE UNION TO GIVE ZOLGENSMA TO A BABY WITH SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY**

According to Folha de S. Paulo, the Federal Court in Pernambuco determined on Saturday (18th) that the Ministry of Health provide zolgensma — known as the most expensive medicine in the world— to four-month-old baby Benjamin Brener Guimarães, diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy. The Union must comply with it within 20 days. The news highlights that the CMED (Medicine Market Regulation Chamber) defined, in December last year, that zolgensma cannot cost more than R\$ 2,878,906.14 in Brazil. The drugmaker Novartis then filed a lawsuit asking for a price adjustment and created an impasse. "The company continues to search. of an equalization between the feasibility of new technologies and a pricing that is consistent with the technical-scientific characteristics of the new therapies", stated the company. [Read more.](#)

### **CNS RECOMMENDS THAT ECONOMY SUSPEND PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR DRUG PRICING**

The National Health Council (CNS) published a recommendation on Wednesday (09/22) asking the Ministry of Economy and the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) to suspend Public Consultation SEAE No. 02/2021, which establishes criteria for pricing new products and drug presentations. The public consultation has been open since the end of July and was opened after deliberation by the Medicine Market Regulation Chamber (CTE/Cmed). According to the CNS document, there is a lack of sufficient technical support for analyzing the impacts provided for in the standard, which represents serious damage to society in general. [Read more.](#)

### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EXPRESSES CONCERN TO LIRA AND PACHECO ABOUT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The European Parliament sent a letter to Congress this Thursday (23) in which it shows concern with the vote on a veto on intellectual property, reported the portal Metrôpoles. The veto is part of the law signed by Jair Bolsonaro this month to temporarily break patents on vaccines and medicines to face health emergencies. In the letter, sent to Rodrigo Pacheco and Arthur Lira, the European Parliament is in favor of maintaining a Bolsonaro veto on the passage that requires patent owners to be obliged to transfer knowledge of theirs. The assessment is that, if the veto is overturned, there will be a violation of industrial secrets. [Read more.](#)

**BRAZILIAN PATENT LEGISLATION IS THE SUBJECT OF DEBATE IN A COMMITTEE IN THE FEDERAL SENATE**

The Senate of the Future Committee debated, this Friday (24), about the Brazilian patent legislation, its benefits, and the need for improvement. One of the participants in the debate was Gustavo de Freitas Moraes, Member of the Board of Directors of the Brazilian Association of Intellectual Property (ABPI). He highlighted points of the Industrial Property Law (Law 9,279/1996). According to him, the law is well organized, helping the parties involved to achieve their goals." Moraes also presented three suggestions for improvements in the LPI, in relation to the following items: art. 10. IX - biological material isolated from nature; art. 32 - amendments after the examination application; and Law 14.200/2021 - maintaining vetoes in the compulsory license bill. [Read more.](#)

**CONGRESSMEN REQUEST SPECIAL SESSION TO DEBATE ABOUT CANCER IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

A group of parliamentarians presented in the Plenary of the Chamber of Deputies the application 1892/2021, requesting the realization of the General Commission in allusion to the month of awareness of the Pink October. The objective is to debate the impacts of the pandemic on cancer cases in Brazil: the detection, screening, diagnosis, financing, and treatment of cancers, with an emphasis on breast and cervical cancer. [Read more.](#)

**CONGRESSMEN REQUEST THE LIGHTING OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS IN THE MONTHS OF PREVENTION OF PROSTATE, BREAST AND SKIN CANCERS**

The Committee on Social Security and Family (CSSF) of the Chamber of Deputies may vote next Wednesday (29), the requirements presented by the members of the Working Group aimed at analyzing the challenges of Oncology in Brazil, proposing the lighting of the National Congress in the months of prevention of breast, prostate and skin cancer. [Read more.](#)

**CNJ INTENDS TO CREATE A NATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER TO DEAL WITH SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH**

The National Health Committee of the National Council of Justice (CNJ) intends to create a Technical Support Center for the Judiciary Branch (NAT-JUS) to address specific demands for supplementary health. The idea has already been discussed between judge Candice Lavocat Galvão Jobim, former supervisor of the CNJ Health Forum, and Rogério Scarabel (former president of the National Supplementary Health Agency - ANS), and, on another occasion, with the current president from the agency, Paulo Rebello. In an exclusive interview with JOTA, the judge, whose term ended on September 9, told a little about what has already been discussed. In addition, the magistrate also informed how the new digital system of NAT-JUS, the e-NAT-JUS, which came into effect on Thursday (16/9). According to her, the new platform will allow the production of complete and categorized reports on the judicialization of Health. [Read more.](#)

**COVID-19 VACCINE SKEPTIC BOLSONARO GETS A PASS AT U.N. BUT NOT NEW YORK RESTAURANTS**

Unvaccinated heads of state attending the United Nation General Assembly this week may have to settle for a piece of pizza on a sidewalk instead of fine dining at New York's restaurants. That is how Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro dined on his first night in New York, where no one is allowed into the city's restaurants without proof of vaccination against COVID-19. The far-right populist is a vaccine skeptic who has bragged about not being vaccinated, saying before he left for New York that his immune system is strong enough to fend off the coronavirus. Two Cabinet ministers on his delegation posted a photo of Bolsonaro and aides munching on slices of pizza on a New York sidewalk on Sunday night. [Read more.](#)

**BRAZIL'S HEALTH MINISTER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IN NYC**

Brazil's Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga tested positive for COVID-19 hours after accompanying President Jair Bolsonaro to the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, the government said. Queiroga will remain in New York in quarantine, the



government's communications office said. "The minister is doing well," the statement said. It added that the rest of the delegation tested negative for the virus. Queiroga told CNN Brasil that he had worn a mask the entire time that he was in the U.N. building. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL REGULATOR SAYS ADOLESCENT DEATH UNRELATED TO PFIZER SHOT**

The death of a 16-year-old who had a first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech (PFE.N), vaccine against COVID-19 was due to a prior blood clot condition not related to the vaccine, Brazil's health regulator Anvisa said on Wednesday. Concluding an investigation into the death earlier this month, Anvisa said it was caused by an auto-immune disease suffered by the adolescent. The Pfizer vaccine is the only one approved for minors in Brazil. "It was a characteristic clinical picture of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura, an autoimmune disease," the regulator said in a statement. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL APPROVES COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOTS FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

Brazil has approved booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines for "health professionals," with preference given to the Pfizer (PFE.N) shot, Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga said on Friday. The boosters will only be given to people six months after they complete initial round of COVID-19 vaccination, Queiroga said in a Twitter post. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA TAPPED TO MAKE MRNA VACCINES IN LATIN AMERICA**

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has selected two biomedical centers in Argentina and Brazil as regional hubs to develop and produce mRNA-based vaccines to fight COVID-19 in Latin America, the regional health agency said on Tuesday. The idea is to tap existing manufacturing capacities to help transfer vaccine technology developed by Moderna (MRNA.O) in the United States to a region badly hit by the coronavirus and still without access to enough vaccines. [Read more.](#)

### **AMERICAS HEALTH AGENCY SEES COVID OUTBREAKS CONTINUING INTO 2022**

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) warned on Wednesday that countries in the region could continue to face localized COVID-19 outbreaks "well into 2022" even while deaths have fallen from their peak in January. While vaccinations are progressing, the region faces a "severe vaccine inequality problem" that will prolong the pandemic, particularly in the poorer Latin American nations, PAHO said in a report to its annual policy-setting meeting. [Read more.](#)

### **BRAZIL APPROACHES 600,000 COVID DEATHS IN SECOND-DEADLIEST OUTBREAK**

Brazil has had 24,611 new cases of the novel coronavirus reported in the past 24 hours, and 648 deaths from COVID-19, the health ministry said on Thursday. The South American country has now registered 21,308,178 cases since the pandemic began, while the official death toll has risen to 592,964, according to ministry data, in the world's third worst outbreak outside the United States and India and its second deadliest after the United States. [Read more.](#)

### **COVID-19: Brazil reports 24.6k cases, 648 deaths in 24h**

In 24 hours, Brazilian health authorities registered 24,611 cases of COVID-19 and 648 deaths stemming from the disease. The figures can be found in the latest report by the Ministry of Health, released Thursday (Sep. 23). After the newly confirmed cases were added, the total number of people contaminated since the beginning of the pandemic in Brazil reached 21,308,178. A total of 20,319,520 have recovered, which accounts for 95.4 percent of the people infected in Brazil since the pandemic started. [Read more.](#)